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*OK, I got up*

*ATTN Star*

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WARNING: ATTN TEL AVIV DDFD  
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SERIAL: LD2308151738  
PASS: COPY TO MOD

COUNTRY: Sudan  
SUBJ: Take 1 of 3 -- Al-Mahdi Assembly Address

REF: LD2308081488 fyi -- al-mahdi's aug speech nc2208153533 and  
add cairo mena arabic 221500 -- al-mahdi on flood aid plans

SOURCE: Omdurman Television Service in Arabic 1714 GMT 22  
Aug 88 (tentative)

TEXT:

[Speech by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the  
Constituent Assembly on 22 August; monitored in progress --  
recorded]

[Excerpts] There were spare parts, and it became clear  
that there was a big surplus; why was it not limited?  
[Words indistinct] because it became clear to the  
committee that spare parts were needed. Arrangements were  
made to bring them quickly, but it transpired that they were  
[words indistinct]. The important thing is that there are  
many questions to be asked. In addition, it is known that  
electricity supplies are in a state of (?emergency) from the  
beginning of the month of floods, until the beginning of  
[words indistinct].

[Passage indistinct] clear optimism that (?five) people

IIII

concerned with electricity supply were away on leave at this very critical stage. This is like soldiers being absent from military service while their post is under attack. It is known that this stage is very important with regard to emergency services and electricity production.

These are all very important matters. I know that unusual natural conditions have appeared in our country, but there are also clear administrative and technical shortcomings [words indistinct].

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What is the nature of the responsibilities of independent bodies? Who is held accountable for the darkness, hunger, and thirst which have afflicted the Sudanese? One of us is responsible, or many of us are responsible. This responsibility must be hung around the neck of one of us, or the necks of some of us. [Word indistinct] or civility cannot be tolerated in this issue. Therefore, we must know who is responsible and [word indistinct]; people were left hungry and thirsty, the capital was left in darkness. If our people are not civilized, a catastrophe -- the extent of which would only be known to God -- would have taken place.

IIII

Extraordinary great efforts are now being made [word indistinct] and the electricity now available is between 77 and 136 megawatts, which satisfies the needs of essential services such as water pumping stations, hospitals, sewage plants, and factories manufacturing strategic goods. The remaining power will be distributed to residential districts where existing electricity networks still function. [passage indistinct]

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What I want to assert here is there are no unsolvable issues; we are not trying to reach Mars or the Moon. We are trying to solve known, studied, determined, and decided issues, which might have developed this year, but are still all known technical issues. So, why were the necessary preparations and arrangements not taken? All these are legitimate questions which must clearly be answered, God willing. The problem here (?is dealing) with water and bread, a matter which led the capital to be hungry. Despite the fact that the country is full of [word indistinct] and corn, still the capital was hungry. Citizens have in fact been very patient. All the demonstrations which took place were understandable.

IIII

True, some people who did not have real political support said [words indistinct] It was, however, a shameful operation, and no one followed it. However, the angry and spontaneous demonstrations were understandable -- people expressed their exasperation because they were hungry, thirsty, and felt that their daily needs had disappeared. This is why there were such demonstrations.

(ADRE) 221714 [redacted] 23/1202Z AUG

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